

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council

Meeting Number 128 (1-13)

January 7, 2013

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meetings are held at the new Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Joppa, MD.

Meeting Number 128 was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Paula thanked Vice-Chair Gloria Moon for conducting the meetings in Paula's absence. Paula welcomed special guests Ryan Burbey and Larry Gingsberg from the Harford County Education Association; she also acknowledged Captain Chris Swain, Commander of the Southern Precinct and welcomed Harford County Councilman Dion Guthrie. Local council members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Doris G. Carey, Ron Sollod, Vincent Rabenau, Betty Byrne, Bob Frisch and James B. Lyons III. Member absent was Yvonne Baldwin. Gloria Moon moved and Doris Carey seconded that the December minutes be approved.

Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report

Captain Christopher Swain, Southern Precinct Commander, demonstrated how to navigate the crime report website, www.crimereports.com, to learn about what crimes have happened in the various areas of our community. In response to a question about cell phone use while driving, Captain Swain stated that reliable statistics could not be found relating to cell phone use by distracted drivers. He discussed briefly the reporting of burglary in the area during the Christmas holidays. He urged the community to keep an eye out for people that don't belong in the neighborhood and call the police if necessary. Captain Swain wanted to know from the council what information they would like for him to report on at the meetings each month. He was questioned about what the Sheriff's department was doing with the school system in light of the recent tragedy in Connecticut. He responded that the Sheriff's Office has a close working relationship with the school system. Paula thanked him for his presentation.

Ron Burbey, President of the Harford County Education Association

Mr. Burbey requested that community members support increased county funding for the school system with a priority to giving teachers raises. He mentioned that surrounding counties pay a higher starting salary, and it is difficult to keep more experienced teachers in the county. Burbey urged the community members to turn out on January 28 at Aberdeen High School for a budget planning session organized by County Executive Craig. He asked that communities come out and support our schools.

Board of Education Update

Bob Frisch, local council member and school board member for the Joppa – Edgewood District, stated that the school system's budget process will involve teacher salaries as well as decisions on which schools should receive priority for construction and renovation projects. Frisch said that he and other board members are at odds with the County Executive over the funding priority for high school reconstruction. Joppatowne High School was up for reconstruction consideration last year but was turned down. Bob Frisch also said that the school board has plans to establish a citizens' advisory committee with expertise in various fields who will offer their advice to the board. More information will be shared with the community on a later date.

County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie

Councilman Guthrie stated that he has finally gotten the tax credit for the 79 homes on Magnolia Road that are in his district. It has taken over three years to get this done. Three homes that are in Delegate Impallaria's district did not receive the tax credit. Councilman Guthrie was asked for an update on the waste transfer station. He said he and others are trying to persuade the County Executive to accept a contract with a disposal company in White Marsh, MD where Harford County trash would be taken by local trash haulers, at no cost to the County. In fact, the County would be paid for the trash. Dion was asked if he had the vote to keep the Plecker's golf site out of the solid waste management plan. The councilman said that he is trying to figure out a way to make sure voting on the site is unnecessary. Dion spoke briefly about the Livability Code. He said the bill needs to be rewritten. It is not strong enough for boarded up and closed houses. Paula thanked Dion for his presentation.

Community Updates from Community Council Members and Community Members

Ron Sollod reminded meeting participants about the dangers of unattended lit candles. Paula Mullis asked representatives from the county government to come to local council meetings to discuss the County's budget. James B. Lyons III introduced Jeff Wainwright as the new president of the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company. Betty Byrne announced that Wednesday nights are bingo nights at the fire hall. She urged all to come to play; they need the money.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Minutes by Doris Carey